

# National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

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## DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

**Friday, December 3, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST.**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Jean-Mari Peltier (Chair), Dr. Mary Wagner, (Vice Chair), Dr. Carrie Castille, Dr. Nancy Childs, Dr. Steve Daley-Laursen, Dr. Dennis Heldman, and Terry Wolf.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Nancy Cox; Leo Holt

**NAREEE Board Staff:** Robert Burk (Executive Director), and Shirley Morgan Jordan (Program Support Coordinator).

**Invited Guests:** Dr. Walter Armbruster, (Specialty Crops Committee Chair), Carol Keiser-Long (Renewable Energy Committee Chair), and Dr. Charles Perrings (October Meeting Report Work Group Chair).



### I. Roll Call of Members and Invitees

- Rob Burk (Executive Director) conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee as members signed on to the conference call.

### II. Comments and Welcome

- Jean-Mari Peltier (Chair) provided welcoming remarks to the Board.
- Jean-Mari Peltier related a report to the committee on what the 2012 Farm Bill will look like.

- Jean-Mari Peltier discussed the fact that she would be attending an REE stakeholder's meeting later that day.
- Prior to the conference call Jean-Marie Peltier met with Krysta Harding in Congressional Affairs.
- Jean-Mari Peltier and Krysta Harding both had the same idea in mind with taking the approach on how to double the funding of REE programs. The timeframe for the Farm Bill is up in the air and will not transpire until about 2012. The NAREEE Advisory Board has time to set up some talking points for input. There was some discussion about outreach to the broader stakeholder community.
- APLU met recently and a question arose on certain aspects of the REE budget. Rob Burk directed the committee members to the USDA Departmental officials who could answer those questions.

### **III. Comments from Under Secretary of REE (if available)**

- Dr. Catherine Wotecki, Under Secretary was unable to attend the Executive Committee Conference Call as she was engaged in a meeting with Secretary Vilsack.

### **VI. Updates on Committee Activities and/or Reports**

#### **Specialty Crop Committee**

- Dr. Armbruster drafted an outline of the Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) Report. He requested input on or before December 8, 2010.
- Jean-Mari Peltier stated that she is pleased with the SCC Report and has the same recommendations as Dr. Armbruster and will get comments to Dr. Armbruster by tomorrow. Jean-Mari Peltier will send those edits she compiles to Dr. Wagner for additional editing.
- Jean-Mari Peltier stated that she has made a commitment to have a SCC Meeting in Michigan. Winter would be a good time but March will be better. Rob Burk suggested that the meeting should be set at a date which would not conflict with the March 30 -31, 2011 meeting of the Board.

#### **Renewable Energy**

- Carol Keiser-Long updated the Executive Committee members on the next Renewable Energy Committee (REC) meeting that will transpire on December 16, 2010 in conjunction with the BRDI TAC Meeting in Washington, DC. She stated that over half of the committee members will be attending. Presentations will be made by USDA Officials. The committee members will get a chance to see how the BRDI TAC interact and also ask questions of the members of BRDI TAC. Carol Keiser-Long offered to provide the REC members with electronic copies of the September meeting presentations to see how they compare.
- The REC has had some comments and publicity regarding its most recent report. The comments centered on cellulosic feed stock. Rob Burk stated that a recent news article printed in the Des Moines Register took one sentence out of context and the news report

was viewed negatively by USDA. Carol Keiser-Long noted that the good news was that the publicity resulted in more people reading the report.

## **V. Updates Work Groups and/or Subcommittees**

### **Competitive Grants**

- There were no activities to report to the Executive Committee involving the Competitive Grants Committee.

### **October Meeting Report**

- Jean-Mari Peltier, and Rob Burk commended Dr. Charles Perrings for his excellent work in developing the report from the October Meeting.
- Dr. Childs proposed the question on, “Who is our audience? Is it the Secretary or Congress? Will the report be used for communicative reasons or doubling the monies for Agriculture?”
- It was suggested that the report needs to be more descriptive so that it will have more impact when reading.
- Jean-Mari Peltier related that she believed that the report should be developed for larger audiences; the report needs to be more descriptive and easy to understand.
- Dr. Perrings welcomed all of the Executive Committees edits and comments. He wants to make sure that the message in the report is easy to comprehend by larger audiences.
- Dr. Daley-Laursen stated that he had several questions and comments and would relate to Dr. Perrings after the Executive Committee Conference Call.

### **Relevancy and Adequacy**

- There was some discussion of the role of the Relevancy and Adequacy Committee. Dr. Dennis Heldman (Chair) indicated that he would be meeting with Dr. Edward Runge (Previous Chair, and Committee Member) on the role of the Committee.

### **Roadmap for REE Review Discussion**

- The Executive Committee briefly reviewed the one page report and supplied a various edits and comments.
- Rob Burk confirmed that the Under Secretary, Cathie Woteki on how she expected the Board to assist REE concerning the roadmap and he related those that information to the Committee. Members of the Executive Committee will officially present the report to Dr. Woteki at a meeting on December 16, 2010.

## **VI. Executive Director’s Report**

- Rob Burk requested input on how the Executive Committee would like to review and distribute the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings. Following a discussion by the committee, he stated that he will send out the current meeting minutes to the full membership of the Board and will supply future reviewed and approved minutes of the Executive Committee after their monthly meetings.

- Rob Burk provided a list of upcoming meetings to the committee.
- Rob Burk reported that the majority of the NAREEE Advisory Board agreed that March 30-31 would be the better dates to hold the Spring meeting. Rob Burk and Shirley Morgan-Jordan will be visiting various hotel properties to identify an adequate meeting location.

***The next Executive Committee Conference Call will be January 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.***

The meeting adjourned at 1125 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Morgan-Jordan

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Jean-Mari Peltier  
Chair

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Rob Burk  
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD:

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Date

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Initials  
Chair

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Initials  
Executive Director